



EUROPE FRACTURES ON THE ISSUE OF MIGRANTS

A COMMENT

BY

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"THE EU IS IN AN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS"

THE CURRENT MIGRATION POLICY IS PUTTING A TIME BOMB UNDER THE
EUROPEAN UNION

There are currently many compelling reasons to become politically active in order to be able to give new orientation, the time of tactics and procrastination must come to an end; the world view is in constant change - if one wants to help shape the New World in economic and security policy, then one must get involved NOW with convergent actions.

The new world view is on its way with digital speed of light, it does not wait. (EoE)

The question for Europe is no longer whether it should strengthen its common border. But if it can still avoid the return of national barriers. The Italians, although disappointed with the EU and governed by extremists, remain realistic enough to seek the solution in a European framework rather than in Vienna or Budapest.

It was therefore in Paris and Berlin that Giuseppe Conte, Italy's numero uno, made appointments before his first summit in Brussels on 28 June. A summit whose first priority will be unquestionably immigration.

In the conflict between East and West, between peoples and elites, between the new "democratures" (a mix between democracy and dictatorship) and liberal democracies, Emmanuel Macron's France is in the middle.

In a recent speech in Quimper President Macron was defending his choices and castigating populist leprosy" in Europe.

And I say to you, with great gravity, in the moment we are living: many hate Europe. We must be scandalized against the nationalism that is reborn, against the closed borders that some propose."

It is time for collective work. The issue of immigration in Europe is a real test for Europe's future (Angela Merkel). The eastern part of Europe sees the EU's cosmopolitan values as a threat, while the western part is regarding them as central to the new European identity. For years, the migration crisis has been worsening. Things have changed dramatically for the last three years, since Merkel's decision to open the borders wide.



In Italy it is not only a minister who protests against the isolation of his country but a whole people who voted against Brussels, a vote that is indicative of an evil that is spreading throughout Europe.

A new Alpine axis has appeared next to the Visegrad group which brings together Bavarians, Italians and Austrians. A changeover is taking place around a rebellion that is basically structured around the issue of migrants. Marginal until now, it is gradually becoming central. Europe risks fracturing on this burning issue. The Aquarius affair has revealed hidden discomforts and contradictions that suddenly come to light and confuse the minds across Europe.

It does reveal Europe's inability to understand what politics really is about. Politics is not morality. To make politics that is really politics and not moral order would consist first of all in controlling immigration as much as possible, then in assimilating the populations welcomed in order to guarantee the future of humanism, which is our very different future from that of Islam. Rescuing and welcoming those who drown before our eyes does not prevent us from imposing our laws on them. Rescuing them in an emergency also does not prevent attempts to control immigration at source. We have chosen to assume the damage of our ancestors' colonialism and we do not intend to escape this duty. But it must not turn into suicide. (Chantal Delsol, in Le Figaro) The current migration policy is putting a time bomb under the European Union's control. Today's progressive, childish and suicidal Europe is dying," said Imre Kertesz.

That Merkel and Macron are now forced to negotiate with populist leaders, is the consequence of years without consultation or harmonization of asylum policies in Europe. With the rise of eurosceptics, it will become increasingly difficult to find a compromise on the migration crisis. Especially since Angela Merkel's massive reception policy for refugees, strongly criticized in Germany, even in her own government, has greatly weakened her political credibility and authority.

MERKEL MUST ASK THE QUESTION OF TRUST

The conflict can no longer be disrupted. It must receive a clear answer. And the answer is a question of trust! If Merkel asks for a vote of confidence, everyone in the Union will be forced to clarify their priorities rather than talk about them. The dispute over refugee policy is escalating. There has never been such tension in Angela Merkel's 13 years as chancellor. Merkel must ask the Bundestag's vote of confidence.

"It is a European challenge that requires a European response", Merkel said warning that Europe's cohesion' is really at stake.

Angela Merkel is under even more pressure as her popularity rating in Germany is falling, while the far right is making progress in the polls. She now has one trump card: she can explain to her EU colleagues that they have one last chance.



Migration is increasingly determining elections in all European countries. From now on it could very well determine the future of Europe, whose political, economic and social model its being called into question. "Immigration endangers the very survival of the European Union, warns European Parliament President Antonio Pajani

Emmanuel Macron's great dream is to show his ability to lead the whole of Europe on a redesigned project. For the first time a revolt rises within his own majority without the French really understanding his line on immigration. The Macronian ode to European sovereignty, the calls to Europe's youth launched from the Sorbonne or the European Parliament in Strasburg, gets drowned in this shipwreck . (Natascha Polony, Le Figaro) The situation is made more difficult by the strange and extremely perverse game that Trump is now playing against the European Union with the aim of weakening it.

THE HARSH REALITY: DONALD TRUMP DOES MEAN EUROPE HARM

Natalie Nougayrède comments: The emerging crisis between the United States and Europe is multifaceted; its contours fast evolving; its outcome hard to predict. (...) Trump's mixture of hostility and indifference to the European project, its trading power and its liberal, democratic values, is hardly news – just as his hatred for Merkel is no secret. Whether Europe can stay unified in the face of this perilous environment will be a pivotal question. Add it up: the risks for Europe as the Iran deal unravels; the costs of a trade confrontation; We may yet think fondly of the days when the worst he did was tweet.

There is no point in the Western allies of the United States trying to understand President Donald Trump. (German Foreign Minister, Heiko Maas, in an interview with the Italian Corriere della Sera) Frankly, I'm not sure we should try to understand what Trump or others are doing". I would not say that the West no longer exists, but rather that it is going to follow different rules. Some of the things we took for granted, such as the United States, which would be responsible for security in Europe, no longer apply.

Put bluntly this trend is clearly meant and willing to promote illiberal democracy: political incorrectness, anti elitist nationalism and some kind of slight autocracy: the common denominator of populism in other words.

SOROS ON EUROPE: 'EVERYTHING THAT COULD GO WRONG HAS GONE WRONG'
(Financial Times)

HUNGARIAN-BORN BILLIONAIRE GEORGE SOROS HAS OFFERED A THREE-POINT PLAN IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE STATUS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

An existential crisis is gripping the EU, billionaire financier says. Global politics are threatening to generate "another major financial crisis", George Soros warned while also calling for a "reinvention" of Europe to solve its deepening flaws. The billionaire financier said the EU faced three key problems:



the refugee crisis, territorial disintegration exemplified by Brexit and an austerity policy, prompted by the financial crisis, that has “hindered Europe’s economic development.”

“The EU is in an existential crisis. Everything that could go wrong has gone wrong,” he said. To escape the crisis, “it needs to reinvent itself.” Mr. Soros said tackling the European migration crisis “may be the best place to start,” but stressed the importance of not forcing

European countries to accept set quotas of refugees. He said the Dublin regulation — which decides which nation is responsible for processing a refugee’s asylum status, largely based on which country the individual first enters — had put an “unfair burden” on Italy and other Mediterranean countries, “with disastrous political implications.” While austerity policies appeared initially to have been working, said Mr. Soros, the “addiction to austerity” had harmed the euro and was now worsening the European crisis. US president Donald Trump’s exit from the nuclear arms deal with Iran and the uncertainty over tariffs that threaten transatlantic trade will harm European economies, particularly Germany’s, he said, while a strong dollar was prompting “flight” from emerging market economies. “We may be heading for another major financial crisis,” he said. Years of austerity policies have led working people to feel “excluded and ignored,” a sentiment that has been exploited by populist and nationalistic politicians, said Mr. Soros. He called for greater emphasis on grassroots organizations to meaningfully engage with citizens.

WHAT IF EYES EUROPE REINVENTED EUROPE AS A CONCEPT?

Europe's existential crisis is a profound reality. Emmanuel Macron underlined this in his speech in Aachen on reception of the Charlemagne Prize. His call for a citizen consultation was heard by Angela Merkel, who is painfully aware of the opposition she is facing in her own ranks by interior Secretary Seehofer (CSU). If both succeeded despite a great many obstacles, they would follow in the footsteps of Jean Monnet and his small group of visionaries. But this small group must therefore be replaced by a large wave of pro-European bottom-up initiatives.

"If i were to do it all over again, i would begin with culture." (Jean Monet?)

This is exactly what Eyes of Europe is committed to supporting and implementing. Europe's fabulous cultural heritage is menaced with ruin, worse: the present transmission crisis threatens it with oblivion. The values of Enlightenment are flickering. "Our heritage is not preceded by any will" (Notre héritage n'est précédé d'aucun testament") Hannah Arendt frequently quotes this aphorism from French poet René Char (published in *Feuillets d'Hypnos* in 1946). Without a will, no past is assigned to the future. Without continuity over time, the value of treasures is at risk. The heirs, actors and witnesses, unable to give a name to what they have inherited, end up forgetting it. Oblivion is when the tragedy begins. In the absence of a conscience capable of questioning, meditating, remembering, telling the story and giving it meaning, action has value only for the dead and has no value for the living.



Eyes of Europe's wants precisely to be this European questioning, meditating and remembering conscience. EoE's very first mission is to preserve and transmit our cultural and spiritual European heritage in the broadest sense to young people throughout Europe and turn them gradually into full blood European citizens. The task is daunting, especially, it is dictated by urgency as the general level of our students and pupils keeps declining throughout Europe. Some observers are suggesting that that the average intellectual level may have been in decreasing since 1975.

For Norwegian researchers, the most plausible explanation is a less favourable cultural environment for younger generations. A study, published in the American journal PNAS, analyzing the intellectual performance of young Norwegians tested during conscription, and born between 1962 and 1991 by economists Bernt Bratsberg and Ole Rogeberg (Frisch Centre Oslo), investigated the causes of what they called the "Flynn effect". It shows that the upward trend in intelligence throughout human history has come to a halt in our time, or even that a downward trend has begun. The decline in intelligence owes nothing to genes or sociology according to experts : "While such factors may be present, their influence is negligible compared to other environmental factors, such as the decline in educational values, the degradation of educational and school systems, television and media. On top of all, video game addiction is now recognized as a disease in its own right by the World Health Organization, allowing compulsive gamblers to benefit from care.

A French sociological survey published by Le Figaro (16, 17 June 2018) mentions: "A cultural failure when minors group themselves into communities of origin and collude against French society. This study suggests a "collective failure of a society that has pulverized hierarchies, the master, and the very notion of authority. The educational work of rehabilitation will be long and difficult, but in the words of François Bellamy, it won't avoid the clash of cultures, let alone that of inter-cultures.

In the 19th century, each national state and the French nation in particular embarked on a vast undertaking: alphabetizing the uncultivated peasant masses expressing themselves in diverse dialects which were to be eradicated in the process. The Republic imposed French and literacy upon the French illiterate countryside. Normal Schools were created to train teachers who received a real mission (the term is not too strong): educating the French population and the same was done in Prussia, England, Austria, Italy...

It just happens that the republican school was hyper-nationalist, as nationalist as the Prussian school system which at the same time was training patriotic and nationalist student soldiers. We know what it eventually resulted in : war!.

Fair enough, Europe was reunified politically, economically, socially after a very long civil war (1914-1989) but was it really unified culturally? Therefore it would be necessary, indispensable and urgent to create such thing as a European education, a pan-European education , capable of unifying European culture and, more broadly: forging critical European public opinion. Obviously there is still no such thing as a European citizenship or European spirit either. In fact there is no such thing as a European identity yet.



Whether we like it or not English will have to be the lingua franca of education in Europe. In his latest book "Belgium a utopia for our time", recently published, Professor Philippe Van Parijs opposes the utopia of the Flemish nationalists who dream of independence for Flanders, another utopia just as strong, that of an English speaking Belgium. Fewer young Flemings are learning French as a second language in Flemish schools, fewer Walloons are learning Flemish in Walloon schools.

However, they are increasingly choosing English as their second language. "English will very soon be the first second language of the country, if it is not already the case. (Van Parijs.) In personal relationships, communication is already in English. "My thesis is that more and more personal relations will take place in English and in this the Belgians will be the pioneers of a Europe of the future. Indeed, "English will allow us more and more to dialogue internationally?."

Eyes of Europe is therefore determined to convey its pan European educational communication in English.

"IF I WERE TO DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN, I WOULD BEGIN WITH CULTURE." (Jean Monet)

In his latest book *Paths to the essential* a vibrant plea for culture, Jacques Attali defines a universal list that he thinks every educated person should know. A clever mix of works and authors, musicians, philosophers, painters allowing a priori to broaden horizons, and to free oneself from a Western vision of the world. Attali makes a fairly accurate paradoxical observation: most of the culture is fled by most people, although more than ever available. Everyone now has now an easy access to everything: books, films, musical works... But major works are less and less frequented: a preference for the new wins, probably for economic reasons because the stock pays less than the flow. Moreover, we would prefer reading insignificant news to reading the basics. Most individuals prefer to exchange with friends about their most futile activities rather than reading classics and enjoy the treasures of ancient music, art and philosophy. This strange attitude is leading to confinement in a minimal circle: we spend too much time on Facebook, and too little on more enriching readings. Attali's new book has a bold and reckless ambition: rediscovering the immense and neglected "stock" of major works. Megalomania? Not at all. It is rather the desire to transmit that is reflected in this approach.

"A good life, free, fulfilled, warns Attali will be more so if we frequent the masterpieces of European and world culture.

This message isn't exactly new. It is indeed reminding of Allan Bloom's *The closing of the American Mind* (1987). While a professor at the University of Chicago between 1979 and 1992, Allan Bloom sought to immerse his students in only the most classic works of philosophy and literature. Bloom insisted that for all his erudition, he was merely a product of America's democratic promise.



Well into his fifties, he often spoke of himself as a simple “Midwestern boy,” the Indiana-born son of Jewish immigrants who received the best gift a meritocratic democracy could offer: a great education. Bloom thought of himself as proof that, thanks to education, anyone can make it in America.

One of the fundamental guarantees of democratic society is the freedom of self-determination, or the “pursuit of happiness.” Bloom saw the proper exercise of this freedom as something that education can help teach. The pursuit of happiness, after all, presumably involves attempting to know what happiness is.

Bloom was pleading for an education in the humanities under the guidance of wise teachers and classic texts, to help them challenge their most deeply held beliefs according to the highest standard of reason. Such a “liberal education,” amounted to no less than the perfection of democratic autonomy. Bloom believed that a “crisis of liberal education” would amount to nothing less than “the crisis of our civilization.” Underneath a nonjudgmental relativism, Bloom saw a creeping nihilism: believing that all judgments of value had equal weight, the students ended up not believing or aspiring to much of anything at all. For Bloom, the only solution to the impending collapse of democracy was to return to a traditional humanities curriculum. In the years before death, Bloom was happy to join the crusade against “political correctness” he helped to start. In the age of Trump, Bloom’s suggestion that elite education has a role to play in saving democracy from itself may nonetheless be worth returning to.

Jacques Attali: "I dream of a world where the essential would be offered to all" .

"A good life, free, fulfilled, warns Attali will be more so if we cross it by having the chance to frequent as often as possible the masterpieces of European and world culture."

"I dream, of a world where the essential would be offered to all" - better: of a universe (it was the dream of The Encyclopedia) where "all these works will be available and searchable in all municipal libraries, and on the cloud."

His dream is actually echoing Eyes of Europe's ambition: offering Europe's youth something like an auto active learning platform as well as a virtual democratic Agora where they can exchange in English and in real time. Exchanging not on trivial banalities but on the contrary on current hot topics such as immigration, global warming, the decline of democracy etc. We all know this quotation that Jean Monnet is said to have expressed, but that in reality he did not say: ""if i were to do it all over again, i would begin with culture." Indeed, it is regularly evoked to denounce a materialistic, soulless, fleshless and tasteless Europe.

Jean Monnet's words inspired the following reflection by Jacques Delors. We did well to start with the economy, and we would have been very presumptuous to start European construction with culture. The Europe of culture was not to be invented. As if we had to wait until after the Second World War to lay the foundations of a European culture... This European culture has existed since there have been intellectuals, novelists and artists.



I am referring to the Europe of medieval universities, where no Parisian student would have thought of it in the 13th century. And I am also thinking of course of the Europe of the Enlightenment, of this "immense republic of cultivated spirits" of which Voltaire spoke, and of which the archetype will have been the Line Prince. Closer to home, Stefan Zweig embodies that European culture which, before the dark years, was the glory of Paris or Vienna.

But it is not enough to recognize Europe's cultural diversity as an asset.

Europe will no longer be built without public debate, it will therefore not be built without the commitment of intellectuals and people of culture. Milan Kundera recalled as early as 1983 that, for the Polish, Czech or Hungarian nations, "the word Europe does not represent a geographical phenomenon, but a spiritual notion.

My hope is that the crossroads will spread and that, more and more, the world of culture will enrich our reflections, broaden our perspectives and humanize us.

But the Europe of culture, even less than the others, cannot be decreed

It is therefore necessary to find vectors, concrete themes that can activate European culture and take cooperation to a higher level than spontaneous exchanges, however encouraging they may be.

"THE WORD EUROPE DOES NOT REPRESENT A GEOGRAPHICAL PHENOMENON, BUT A SPIRITUAL NOTION.

Today we see ourselves once again in a conflict situation that can escalate at any time unless a mediating instrument is found to which an unassailable appreciation is ascribed on all sides, both in the classical and in the forward-looking sense:

An auto-actively communicating education and training system is such an instrument; in the medium term it generates a new, sustainable systemic integration at eye level.(EoE) It is Eyes of Europe first and foremost ambition to preserve and transmit the spirit of Europe that seems to be wavering at the moment. For several decades we have been experiencing a profound crisis in the transmission of values, ideas and culture, whose mission is to carry it forward like a torch that is passed down from generation to generation.

"The world becomes inhuman when it is carried away into a movement in which there is no permanence." Hannah Arendt

The Europe of culture is not to be invented it needs to be preserved and re-enchanted. This is where Eyes of Europe's ambition lies.

MARC GUIOT

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